

Appln No. 09/582,175

Amdt date August 13, 2003

Reply to Office action of June 4, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 16, delete the paragraph beginning on line 6 through line 18 and replace it with the following:

Figures 9a to [11b] 9b illustrate the schematic sectional view of the apparatus using the present invention in three configurations. Figures 9a and 9b illustrate a configuration where the vertical column 101 is divided into two compartments by partition 110 with free space at the bottom part so that it forms a U tube type connection. At the upper part of the column is an upper bed with nozzles 104 and 105. Between the upper bed and the surface of the resin bed 106b is a free board 108a to accommodate the expansion of the resin bed after the resin has been exhausted, and also to accommodate resin expansion during backwash. The level of the resin bed can be observed through sight glass 109. Port 102 is an inlet of the service fluid and outlet for the regenerant fluid while port 103 is an outlet of the service fluid and inlet of the regenerant fluid. The operation can be reversed. Ports 111 and 112 are the outlets for the backwash fluid.